Amendment of IPC

683. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the I.P.C. relating to spurious drugs to make them cognizable and non-bailable offence;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be brought forward?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government is proposing to amend the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 to provide for stringent punishment to the offenders wherein a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a fine upto rupees ten lakh, has been provided and provision for special courts for speedy trial of drug related offences and making all such offences cognizable and nonbailable is proposed.

(c) The Bill is likely to be introduced in the present Monsoon Session of Parliament.

Traditional knowledge digital library

684. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Competent Authority has initiated project *viz.* Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) with National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research after the year 2000;

(b) if so, the details including period of completion and present status of project;

(c) the total amount spent for infrastructure facilities for project at NISCAIR;

(d) whether competent authority of his Ministry and CSIR had decided to shift project from NISCAIR and to initiate purchase for establishing infrastructure facilities for project somewhere else; and

(e) if so, the reasons in details and amount sanctioned for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Project was scheduled to be completed for 76,000 formulations in Ayurveda, 1,00,000 formulations in Unani and 12,000 formulations in Siddha and 1500 Asanas in Yoga by December, 2007. Presently, 79,470 (more than the targeted formulations have transcribed), 98,770 and 10,100 formulations in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha respectively have been transcribed. Validation by eminent Experts is in progress.